



MEDIA RELEASE

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African-American Hospital Site Dedicated

Greenville, SC... The Working Benevolent Society Hospital, a hospital that served the Greenville African-American community, was dedicated today at a ground breaking ceremony at the intersection of Green Avenue and Jenkins Street. This is the site where the hospital once stood and where an historical marker will be placed.

Founded in 1920 as St. Luke Colored Hospital, the Working Benevolent Society Hospital served the black community for 28 years. The name was changed to the Working Benevolent Society Hospital when the Society took over operations in 1928.

Ms. Mamie Watkins, Vice President of the Green Avenue Civic Association read the inscription that will be placed on the historical marker. She read in part, "The hospital, described at its opening as 'one of the most modern institutions in the South for colored people' had three wards and 22 beds in semi-private and private rooms. Mrs. M.H. Bright was the first superintendent. A registered nurse and a graduate of the Tuskegee Institute, she had been superintendent of the Institute hospital. "

Mayor Pro-tem Lillian Brock Flemming recognized the good work of the hospital and its important role in the community, stating, "This dedication pays tribute to a significant point in the history of the Green Avenue neighborhood and the City of Greenville. The caring and good works of at the Working Benevolent Society Hospital are well worth remembering. As this community moves forward, we will build upon the values and good works that took place on this site many years ago."

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